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TESTIMONY ON SB 755
BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH

February 6, 2009

Dear Senators,

I am writing on behalf of my 6 year old son Daniel Brennan who is a resident of North Haven and attends Montowese School. Daniel is asthmatic, has severe allergies to: Peanut, Tree nuts, shell fish, Milk, Soy, Egg whites, wheat and corn, numerous environmental allergies and has eczema.

Daniel started Kindergarten this year, which was not a smooth transition. I had to fight with the school for Daniel to carry his medical bag on the bus to and from school. Then his medical bag has to stay with his teacher and not follow him around school. His medical bag consists of: an inhaler for asthma, Epi pen and Hydroxyzine for anaphylactic reactions. The first week of school, Daniel got off the school bus in distress because of an asthma attack that was not treated and required an emergency room visit. Daniel's asthma attacks start off with a consistent cough and needs to be administered his inhaler. Daniel is use to carrying and having his medical bag with him at all times (like a security blanket). He was too embarrassed to ask his teacher for help. Daniel missed the next day from school, and was also put on Nebulizer treatments, every 4 hours and to take steroid medicine for several days. Since that incident Daniel has been permanently put on Flovent 110 mg twice daily to main his asthma.

In December, Daniel had another asthma attack with extreme chest pain. This attach was extremely severe and was referred to the emergency room. In the emergency room, Daniel was given three Combivent Nebulizer treatments and still no relief. The E.R. doctors decided to do a chest xray, which revealed that Daniel's right middle lobe of his lung has collapsed with air around his heart. The E.R. doctors decided to admit him to Yale Children Hospital. After being admitted, Daniel was put on oxygen because his oxygen levels were between 88 and 92. (Oxygen should not go below 95) After a few hours of oxygen and Daniel was still not getting any better, they decided to put Daniel on continuous Albuterol Nebulizer treatments for twelve hours. Which had severe side effects, Daniel's blood pressure dropped to dangerous levels and if it didn't come up; he would be transferred to intensive care and put on blood pressure pills. Also his oxygen levels dropped again, which required him to go back on oxygen once again. He was put back on steroids, antibiotics, and two types of inhalers. After three days of living at the hospital with my son and lack of sleep. He was finally allowed to come home, under strict guidelines. This was an extremely stressful experience not only for Daniel and

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myself, but his two brothers were extremely upset. They were not allowed to go up to the hospital nor were they able to see their mom for three days and were shipped to their grandparent's house.

Since that incident, Daniel has had to follow up with his pediatrician, allergist and started with a Pulmonary doctor. He has also had to have numerous tests, another chest xray and extensive blood work. Since Daniel's lung has collapsed, he has scarring on his lung and the Pulmonary doctor does not like how his lung looks in a certain area. Due to her findings, he is required to have a Bronoscope of his lungs later this month. Daniel also has to have his nose and mouth covered when going outside because of temperature change. Which has also caused some additional problems, due to Daniel's medical condition, there have been complaints to the school, bus company and North Haven Police Department that my children do not wait for the school bus outside. The complain that by not waiting outside it causes additional traffic, on our already busy street.

I have also spoken to the bus company about Daniel getting off the bus smelling like Diesel fumes because he sits in the front seat, where the door opens. Diesel fumes can also cause an asthma attack. I have written to the EPA, to help assist me in getting Winkle Bus Company, not to have their buses idle during pick up and drop off at school. For further information please refer to:



<http://www.epa.gov-otaq-schoolbus-documents-ir-letter.pdf.url>

I am a firm believer that Asthmatic and Anaphylactic children should have their medications with them at all times because if not treated immediately this can become life threatening. My son and his older brother, have been taught at young age on how to administer Epi pen and inhaler treatments, incase I am unavailable. This was also recommended by the pediatrician and allergist.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have.

Sincerely,

Dawn DeMatteo-Brennan